PRE-SYNOPSIS

"A DEPICTION OF REFUGEE CULTURE IN SELECT NOVELS OF ABDULRAZAK GURNAH : A CRITICAL STUDY "

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Introduction

"A displaced person who has crossed national boundaries and who cannot return home due to fear of death is considered as a Refugee." Such person is also called as asylum seeker until he is granted as a refugee status by the contracting state. Globally the displacement of person is reaching record numbers including millions of refugees trying to seek safety outside of their native country. In literature we don't find sufficient literary work on successful refugee settlement and the cultural information of refugee's is also very limited. It is assumed that there are noticeable differences in the culture of refugee and the culture of the country where they settle. It may cause various unknown public responses. It results as unsuccessful social integration of those refugees.

The present study will explore not a problem to be solved but as a site of social, cultural and political critiques of war, post colonialism, human rights and displacements. Culture is an umbrella term which includes the social behavior, institutions and norms found in human society. It is often originated from specific region. Which means each and every culture bears its geographical identity, which differs as we change the places. Humans acquire culture by learning process of enculturation and socialization, which can be seen by the diversity of cultures across various societies. It is a culture which tells, about how to deliver acceptable conduct in society. It also guides us to know about expectations of a society from an individual and directs them to follow it.

Abdulrazak Gurnah is a writer who started his literary work out of his homesickness during his teenage. He wrote realistic conditions in his daily diary, which turned into wide reflections about home. Later it he grew into work of fictional stories about other people. He used his writing as an impressive tool to depict, understand and record his life experiences as a refugee, living in other country and feeling of being displaced person. These stories became popular novels of Gurnah. His novels help to explore themes of the lingering trauma of colonialism, war and displacement. Gurnah's writing consist of themes related to exile, displacement, colonialism and broken promises by state. Most of his novels are about people in developing world affected by crisis and are not able to represent their own stories. The study will

attempt to explore how refugee have portrayed themselves and have been portrayed in literature, memoir and testimony of the writer.

Much of the literary work of Gurnah is related to coastal region of East Africa. As a result, many of his novel's protagonists were born in Zanzibar. He was awarded by the nobel prize in 2021 for his uncompromising work for effects of colonialism and fate of refugee in Gulf between cultures and continents.

The present research is going to study the depiction of refugee culture in Abdulrazak Gurnah's select novels such as *"Memory of departure, By the sea, The last gift and Gravel Heart"*. The select novel will be considered as a refugee narrative, examining the problem of home, displacement, their culture and their fateful journey.

Aims and Objectives of the study

The present research work will be done to achieve following aims and objectives:

1. To study the refugee / migrant form of literature.
2. To understand life and conditions of Refugee in select novels.
3. To focus on those people who are belonging to migrated category.
4. To throw light on refugee culture and tradition.
5. To seek out the exploitation of people at the hands of people from newer countries.
6. To highlight the international issues of refugee in the novels.
7. To bring out the realistic picture of refugee through the select novels.
8. To examine the problem of home, displacement and fateful journey of Refugee.

Research Methodology

The present study does not require any field work and research includes the data collected from print material and electronic media. The proposed research work will be done with the help of traditional methods of research. The critical study of select work of Abdulrazak Gurnah will be carried out with the help of research methods such as descriptive, analytical, critical and evaluative method. Which is totally based on primary and secondary sources.

Significance and justification of the study

It is hoped that the study would prove useful for social activists who are concerned with the oppressed people in Refugee society. Many research has been done on work of Abdulrazak Gurnah but this research has been done from different view which is one of a kind.

Depiction of refugee as a victim of displacement, it is quite analysis of war, empire, militarism and humanitarianism are made visible via refugee epistemology. Refugee's or the writer's experience is unique. Some common themes in refugee written literature include war, education, childhood and cultural identity. Refugee literature is not only a literature of despair. That dwells on the moral hypocrisy of the west. It is only a form of testimonial literature depictive traumatic events or incidents.

Hypothesis

* It is assumed that consistent themes runs through Gurnah's writings, including exile, displacement, colonialism and broken promises by the state.
* It is also believed that most of his novels tell stories about people living in the developing world affected by war or crisis who may not be able to tell their own stories.
* The present study is one of the sensitive issues at the transnational level in the world literature.
* The research will investigate the real experience and outburst feelings of the author, who presented in the novel. The research study will explore the larger canvas of immigrant people and their culture.

Nature of Problem

1. How Refugees are depicted in the selected texts?
2. How does the writer try to feature African Arab protagonists looking in on societies on which their holds are tenuous.
3. How does the main stream literature differ from the selected texts?

4. How do the writer and his works concentrated on social problems of constantly shifting people.

Scope and Limitations of Research

The scope of the research would be strictly limited to the select work of Abdulrazak Gurnah i.e***. Memory of departure, By the sea, The last gift and Gravel Heart.*** The present researcher will heavily be dependent on primary and secondary sources for interpretation, analysis and critical inquiry of the study. The present study is regarding the proper understanding of literary work of Abdulrazak Gurnah, the researcher would take help of other references of the selected works.

The study will not include the interview of the writer. The film, theater or television version of these novels will not be included in the study. The novels and reference books in any other languages other than English will not be considered for the study.

Tentative Chapter Scheme

The present research work is divided into seven chapters

Chapter I

Introduction

The introductory chapter will focus on, The concept – 'Refugee'. Section two of this chapter is about a brief study regarding to "refugee culture". This study would form as the background study to understand various dimensions of the migrant literature and its nature. It would be also discussed review of literature, theory, concept and brief survey of the literature on sociological approach.

Chapter II

"Memory of Departure" is the first novel of Abdulrazak Gurnah, which was published in 1987. It is about a Muslim man who wants to study abroad. It is a very simple story of a boy

starting his life in a broken society, family and future. It is the story of Hassan who was living in the city of coastal region of East Africa. He decides to escape from his own country. When he is introduced to new life and new relation he got to know the newer perspective of life. As we explore this novel we get to know the trauma of colonialism, war and displacement throughout his novel and other literary work.

Chapter III

"By the sea" is the novel of Abdulrazak Gurnah which was listed for booker prize in 2001. It the story of Saleh Omar and Latif Mahmud who were connected but got to meet each other in new town of English country. When they mate, they reveal their story that reveals various aspects of emotions to readers. It is fine example of confrontation of readers with highly complex picture of the refugees trying to get out of worse situations and migrations. This is a compelling narration of the trauma of people who are away from their homes in postcolonial Africa. It also focuses the problem of imprisonment as the feature of postcolonial African cultures.

Chapter IV

In this chapter researcher will discuss about the novel *"The Last Gift"* of Abdulrazak Gurnah. In this novel writer try to depict the themes of cultural identity and the weight of family secrets. A character from this novel Abbas, whose past was hidden. But when it came to the present both of his children had to return home. They came to look after their ailing father who suffers a collapse. Abbas was bedridden and unable to speak. It is very interestingly told that how does Abbas untie the knots of his past for his family. This novel emphasizes on the concept of self and home, guilt and exile and meaning of the stories we often tell to answer fundamental problems of our life. It can be described as a nuanced and sensitive novel about identity, memory and exile.

Chapter V

The first part of the novel *"Gravel Heart"* gives us Salim's life in Zanzibar, growing up in a happy family that bafflingly becomes broken. Eventually certain truths about his mother's life become distressingly clear to him, but he manages only a half-conversation about it with her and becomes increasingly isolated within his own anger and confusion. When his uncle Amir offers him the opportunity to move to London as a student, it seems like an escape. Next part is about Salim's life in the UK, when he begins to understand more of what happened between his parents, and also discovers the sadness and dislocation of being away from home. Throughout, the elegance and control of Gurnah's writing, and his understanding of how quietly and slowly and repeatedly a heart can break, make this a deeply rewarding novel. Gravel heart is the powerful story of exile, migration and betrayal.

Chapter VI

Summing up

This chapter would be the summing up of the observations and studies conducted in earlier chapters. Findings proved with the help of evidences will be documented in this chapter. It would be a retrospect of the core chapters of the present study. The chapter would also attempt evaluation and analysis of select works to arrive at some conclusions on the topic under study. It would be raised the major findings of the study.

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